

The Log

September 2023



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**OAKHURST
PC(USA)
118 2nd Ave
Decatur,
GA 30030**

Dear Friends,

A note from Pastor Katie

We are in an exciting time here at Oakhurst. We are gathering in Sunday school for faith formation again; we are gearing up for more fellowship events to welcome new folks in and strengthen the bonds of this community; and we are advocating with and for those seeking justice, basic needs, and freedom from oppression.

I have seen a lot of laughter and good work this summer, as well as an abundance of Spirit-filled moments in Wednesday night fellowship dinners, worship, John Blake's book talk, conversations in Jefferson Hall after worship, the HS senior send off, play dates on the playground after worship, session meetings, deacon conversations, and so many more. God is using these moments to deepen our connections that we may hear God's calling together.

Two initiatives are beginning in September that will have a significant impact on how we move forward as a community together. I hope you will join us.

Session Visioning Retreat | September 16

The session will spend a full day working on a DRAFT version of Oakhurst's Purpose, Vision, Tenets (steps to reach our vision), and Values. We will share about that work and then host small group gatherings with the congregation to listen and dialogue, as we hone in on how we will be Oakhurst today and into our future. Our work together is stronger with many voices..

Stewardship Conversations and Opportunities | September 24 - October 29

According to Miriam Webster, stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. God calls us to be stewards of creation, of Christ's mission, of one another, and of the gifts God has given to us. This care for which we are given responsibility is something we do daily, as we seek to be faithful disciples in our lives, in the church, and the world.

Stewardship season in the church is the time of year when we pledge to share those things with which we have been entrusted with one another, as we seek to live as a community which lives out our calling together and in the world.

Indeed, Oakhurst, we are living in an exciting time within this community. We have the opportunity to come together in the next few months to craft a vision and create, with God's help, the structures and plan to support this vision for Oakhurst, which will ground and strengthen our work inside and outside our doors. Trusting in the Holy Spirit, we will emerge in the new (calendar) year with conviction, hope, and courage as we live this calling in the world.

Peace,

Katie

Session

- At its July/August Called and Stated Session Meetings, Session
- Approved a one-year extension of the contract for our Associate Pastor Heather Chase;
- Approved the installation of solar panels on the roof of the church and accepted grant funds to cover a significant portion of the costs;
- Received new member Jordan Ricks following completion of a Confirmation class;
- Approved taking a love offering for our summer pastoral intern Samantha Kendrick;
- Approved registering a team for the Winship Cancer Walk on October 7;
- Approved reviving the Gospel Fest and Sustainable Transit Sunday;
- Voted to host a Guns to Gardens event on December 9, 2023;
- Decided to more visibly share our work as a Matthew 25 Church;
- Called a Congregational meeting for September 17 to elect the Nominating Committee.
- Agreed to assign visitor follow-up to the Member Nurture Committee; and
- Approved having a Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 24 following worship.



9-1 Teresa Daub, Kevin Madison

9-3 NiaRose White

9-4 Inez Giles, Brianna Woods-Jaeger

9-6 Jim Kaiser, Emily Schuelke

9-9 Laura Culp, Danasia Pankey

9-10 Alexander Roberson

9-11 Sandra Eichelberger, Verona Manhu, Mary Mozell Meadows, Grace Uitenham

9-12 Darnell Brown, Cheryl Hartman

9-16 Steve Perkins

9-17 Margaret Schuelke, Phillip Turner, Deborah Thomas, Griffin Watkins

9-18 Joyce Hess



9-20 Ann Ussery-Hall

9-21 Derek DeJesus

9-22 Zeke Dunn, Anisa Travillion, David Travillion

9-23 Micah Brown

9-24 Simone Watts

9-25 Susan Hylan

9-26 Joe Dunlap, Anne Hughes, Jacqueline Randolph

9-27 Ashley Palmer

9-30 Vienna Cornell, Mary Kottkamp

Weekly Calendar

Sundays

11 am Worship

Tuesdays

6 pm Gospel Choir

Wednesdays

4:30 pm Racial Justice Vigil

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursdays

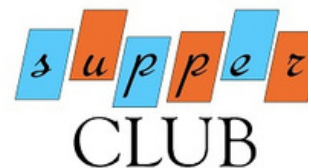
10:30 am – Prayer Group

4:30 pm - Racial Justice Vigil

6:00 pm - Podcast Group

Saturdays

10 am- Racial Justice Vigil



Our next gathering will be on

Saturday, September 23 at 5

p.m. at the church. Our book,

The Personal Librarian, by Marie Benedict and Victoria C Murray

is a library book. Please get a copy, plan to bring a dish and join us for supper and discussion.

Belle de Costa Greene is hired by JP Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books and artwork. She becomes a fixture in NYC society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world as she helps to create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. It tells the story of an extraordinary woman and shares the lengths she must go to - for the protection of her family and her legacy - to preserve her carefully crafted white identity in the racist world in which she lives.

Praying for the Oakhurst

We invite you into a time of prayer for this community. Oakhurst is very familiar with prayers of intercession on behalf of those in our community and beyond. Similarly, prayers for our gathered — and regathering — community are essential as we listen for God's call to Oakhurst in this time and place. If it is helpful for you, below is a possible order of prayer for this month. You can mix it up or choose another path. In whatever way you pray, we know that God will be active and listening.

- September 1 - 9** **Prayers of Thanksgiving** for Oakhurst's ministry and mission
- September 10 - 16** **Prayers for Discernment & Clarity** for the Session, as they prepare for a Visioning Retreat on September 16
- September 17 - 23** **Prayers for God's Blessing** upon this community of unconditional welcome, radical hospitality, and truth telling
- September 24 - 30** **Prayers for Courage and Wisdom** as we listen together for God's dreams for us.



Congregational Meeting September 17, 2023

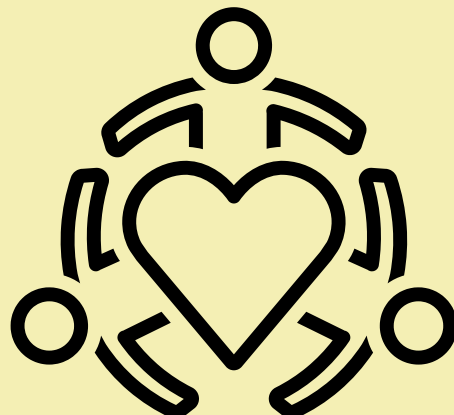
At the meeting, we will **elect a nominating committee**, who will, by the guiding of the Holy Spirit, select a slate of elders & deacons to lead and support the church during this exciting time of renewal.

We invite you to **discern how you might best offer your gifts and presence** during this time - as a member of the nominating committee, as an elder, as a deacon, and/or any of the myriad ways you will learn about at the Ministry Fair.

Ministry Fair & Lunch September 24, 2023

Join us after worship for food & fellowship.

Learn more about Oakhurst's ministry & mission, and find ways to utilize your gifts in service to God and one another.





JOIN OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES at 10 am*

Children K-4th Grade in Rm 202, 203 & 212

Teachers: Kathy Dawson, Ginny Merritt, Gretchen Perkins, Clifton Green, & Alan Ashe

5th grade-8th grade in Rm 209

Teachers: Susan Brown, Meredith Gordon, and Tanya Myers

9th-12th grade in Leach Hall

Teachers: Ted Smith, Paula Couch, & Katie Ricks

Adult Education in Rm 207

(*with some adult offerings in Fellowship Hall at 9:50)

Teachers: Susan Hylan & Charlie Copp

Sunday School Corner: Sabbath Reflections by Pastor Heather Chase

This year in Sunday school we'll look at Sabbath amid our daily life. Sabbath is often understood as rest, like on the 7th day of creation God rested, and often gets connected with the 10 commandments of honoring the Sabbath. For many of us, Sabbath often can feel unattainable. Whether it is a day, an hour, or a spiritual practice resting, a seemingly simple task, becomes one that takes conscious effort as we get pushed by our world to be ever more productive. Experiencing times of Sabbath at different times in Sunday school this year will be a reminder that rest is not an addition to life, it is part of our daily lives as we begin to understand what rest fits with our lives. And we will ask the question "how does rest or lack there of impact our community?" All ages will learn about the sabbath, so get ready for some rest!



NEW MEMBER DINNER

September 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in Jefferson Hall

This dinner is a time of fellowship and for all of our seasoned members to get to know and recognize our new members! All are welcome to attend the meal and will be potluck so bring a dish to share!



Atlanta Pride Parade - October 15, 2023

All are welcome to march!

Worship will be at Oakhurst and at the parade gathering spot. More info and a signup is to come.



International Peace Maker Maria dol Milagro (El Salvador) will be the speaker at a “lunch and learn” at Columbia Presbyterian Church, 711 Columbia Drive, Decatur, on September 27 @ 11am. Come and hear our International Peace Maker. She will be in the Atlanta Presbytery from September 27 through October 4.



2023 Peace and Global Witness Offering You have the opportunity to give to further the work of peacemaking in our world on October 1, Worldwide Communion Sunday, and throughout the month of October. Please plan to give generously in celebration of Oakhurst’s commitment to peacemaking, which began 38 years ago.



Gun Violence More than 4,000 children and teens are shot and killed each year across the country, 15,000 are shot and wounded, and an estimated 3 million children are exposed to shootings every year. A recent report shows that 2021 was the deadliest year of gun violence on record for young people in America, and there was a record amount of gunfire on school grounds across the country. *Source: Everytown for Gun Safety*

Oakhurst will host a Guns to Gardens event (an opportunity for the community to bring unwanted guns to be dismantled and turned into garden tools) on December 9, 2023. Action Circles/training for participants start Thursday, September 7 – October 5. These are one hour weekly zoom sessions with 2 time options, day and evening. Consider joining us. Guns to Gardens is a Matthew 25 Initiative.

Learn more about Guns to Gardens:

<https://www.presbypeacefellowship.org/gun-violence/>



Register [HERE](#) for daytime Cohort Thursdays Sept. 7- Oct 5 Noon ET

<https://ppf.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/ppf/eventRegistration.jsp?event=267&>

Register [HERE](#) for evening Cohort Thursdays Sept. 7- Oct. 5 7:30 pm ET

<https://ppf.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/ppf/eventRegistration.jsp?event=272&>



Suzette Gooch and Ted Smith are forming an Oakhurst Presbyterian Church team for the **Winship 5K Run/Walk on October 7, 2023**. Please join them and other cancer survivors, supporters, and friends in this fun event. A core group from Oakhurst will be walking together. If you are feeling more like a run, you are welcome to run as fast as you can! And if you can't be present for the event, but still want to be part of the team, you can make a donation on the team page. All funds go to cancer research. We hope this will be a time of hope, fellowship, and thanksgiving for the health to move our bodies together. Visit the team [page](#) to learn more, join the team, or make a donation. And please feel free to contact Suzette or Ted with any questions.

CreationWise Tip by Deborah Carter



The average person in our country produces 4.9 pounds of trash every day, which totals 292 million tons of trash every year nationwide. Half of our trash ends up in landfills, and one of the largest categories of waste material in our landfills is food (22%). [Source: <https://www.epa.gov/facts-and-figures-about-materials-waste-and-recycling/national-overview-facts-and-figures-materials> and <https://www.dumpsters.com/blog/us-trash-production>]

Here are simple and powerful ways to reduce the amount of trash entering our landfills by reducing the amount of discarded food:

Reduce the amount of food you bring into your home. This step will have the most impact on the amount of food waste your home produces. If you don't bring it home, it doesn't become waste. Several tips to help get organized with this:

- Check your fridge, freezer, and pantry to help make your grocery list. Finish what you already have before you buy more.
- Stick to your list at the store. An entire industry has been created to get you to buy more than you need. Don't let them trick you; stick to your list!
- Plan your meals in advance so you can make the best use of shared ingredients.
- Keep track of what you're throwing away, so you can adjust your buying habits accordingly. *For example, if you're always throwing out expired milk, buy smaller cartons of milk. Those bulk packages are not a better deal if the food expires before you can eat it.*
- Stock the newest food in the back. Keep the oldest food in the front of your fridge or pantry to prevent it from expiring while hiding in the back.
- Store leftovers at eye-level, up front in the refrigerator, in clear or mostly see-through containers so that you SEE it and EAT it before it goes bad.

Keep the food waste that you do produce out of the landfill.

- Share food before it goes bad with neighbors, friends, or local food pantries.
- Make homemade broths out of bones, meat scraps, and leftover veggies.
- Compost! This will dramatically reduce your food waste, nurture your soil, and help the environment all at the same time. *(e.g. compost at home with a worm bin, backyard compost pile, or tumbler, or drop off compost at the Wylde Center <https://www.wyldecenter.org/compost/t>).*



**We give thanks for the volunteers who prepared food
for Oakhurst's week of service at Hagar's House from August 21 - 26)**

Tom Burton Richelle Patton Beth Thompson Jane Lipscomb
Susan Hylan Susan Brown Pam Epps Laura Nieto Pam Giles
Mike Evans Laurie Culp Mien Wigan Ginny Merritt